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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN EDGE TRIMS

(71) We, SCHLEGEL (U.K.) LIMITED, a British Company, of Ring Road, Seacroft, Leeds, LS14 1LY, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to an improved edge trim or edge protector strip which can be applied around the edge of a sheet of material or around any edge or flange, such as the edge of a crash helmet, or a child's car seat, or wherever finish is required to an otherwise sharp or unattractive edge, e.g. of metal or plastics material.

Edge trims are generally U-shaped in cross-section and normally have an internal semi-rigid carrier also of U-shaped cross-section, formed, for example, of slotted metal or knitted wire, and are provided on one or both of the inner surfaces of the arms of the U with a retaining fin or fins to hold the trim in position on the sheet or flange. Such edge trims have many uses, a particular one being for application to metal flanges around door openings in motor vehicles. The edge trim of the present invention is however primarily designed for the other uses mentioned above.

According to the present invention, we provide an edge trim strip of generally U-shaped cross-section for application to and retention on an edge, the strip being retro-reflective over at least part of its surface.

Although it is envisaged that the edge trim strip could be made of a fabric material supported on a U-shaped carrier, it is preferred that it is extruded from a rubber or plastics material, preferably over a metallic carrier, and that the retro-respective surface is provided by a strip of retro-reflective tape applied to at least part of the surface of the rubber or plastics.

Preferably, the strip of tape extends continuously along a portion of the external surface of the strip. In one arrangement the strip of retro-reflective tape is located substantially centrally on the external face of one of the arms of the edge trim. The strip

of tape may be located in a recess having a depth corresponding to the thickness of the tape and a width corresponding to the width of the tape and extending along the external surface of the rubber or plastics material. The reflective part of the strip may be located on a raised bead, e.g. a strip of reflective tape may be located on a raised bead.

The retro-reflective surface may be of any desired colour; particularly suitable colours are fluorescent red/orange, or fluorescent lime/yellow or white.

The strip of retro-reflective tape may be attached to the body of the edge trim in any manner but preferably it is applied by means of a heat-sensitive adhesive or a pressure-sensitive adhesive. A special primer may be required to apply the strip of retro-reflective tape to rubber surfaces.

If it is desired, the whole of the external surface of the edge trim may be retro-reflective, in which case, preferably a wide strip of retro-reflective tape is applied over the whole of the external surface of the body of the edge trim. The retro-reflective strip may be sufficiently wide to wrap around the free ends of the arms of the U of the edge trim.

Reflective edge trims according to the present invention are particularly suitable for mounting on motor cycle crash helmets, around the rim or flange of the helmet, both to prevent a sharp edge being presented to the user of the helmet and also for safety purposes. If a reflective tape such as the reflex reflector type manufactured by the Safety System Division of the 3M Company is used, it is visible at a distance of about 500ft. in automobile headlights. For motor cycle helmets, only a thin strip of retro-reflective tape is required on the outer surface of the outer arm of the U of the trim strip.

Reflective trim strips according to the invention can also be used for application to flanges on baby prams, and many other safety uses are envisaged. For example, if it is desired to place a warning notice in the road, the whole of the external periphery of

the notice could have a reflective edge trim applied to it. Furthermore, it is envisaged that other signs could quickly be made up with reflective edge trim to give adequate warning to motorists, particularly in the dark.

Two embodiments of the invention are now described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, both of which are perspective views of parts of two different edge trims.

Referring to Figure 1, there is shown an edge trim of a generally U-shaped cross-section, said edge trim having a plastics or rubber body 1 supported on a metallic carrier 3, for example of knitted wire or slotted metal. On the inner faces of the arms of the U a plurality of gripper fins 5 are provided so that when the edge trim is applied over an edge or flange, with the arms of the U embracing the free edge portions of the edge or flange, the edge trim will be held firmly in place. To give the retro-reflective properties a strip of retro- or reflex reflective tape 7, such as that marketed by the Safety Division of the 3M Company under the Registered Trademark Schotchlite, is secured to the outer face of one of the arms of the U, for example by means of a heat sensitive adhesive. The strip 7 can be of any desired colour such as fluorescent orange or yellow.

In the construction shown in Figure 2, a slightly different shaped trim is illustrated, provided with only one gripper fin 5a in place of the gripper fins 5. A groove extending throughout the length of the strip is formed in the outer face of one of the arms of the U and located within this groove is a retro- or reflex reflective tape 7a. This tape can be held in position in any known manner.

Instead of obtaining its reflective properties from a retro-reflective tape, an outer face portion of the strip could be painted with a retro-reflective paint throughout the length of the strip.

Although the illustrated trim strips are shown with a metallic carrier, this is not essential and the arrangement of the gripping fins and their construction can be changed. It is even envisaged that the gripper fins could be dispensed with all together although it may then be necessary to modify the internal shape of the trim strip.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An edge trim strip of generally U-

shaped cross-section for application to and retention on an edge, the strip being retro-reflective over at least part of its surface. 60

2. A strip as claimed in claim 1 which is extruded from a rubber or plastics material.

3. A strip as claimed in claim 2 wherein the rubber or plastics material is extruded over a metallic carrier. 65

4. A strip as claimed in any one of claims 1—3 wherein the retro-respective properties of the strip are provided by a strip of retro- or reflex reflective tape applied to at least part of the surface of the strip. 70

5. A strip as claimed in claim 4 wherein the strip of tape extends continuously along a portion of the external surface of the trim strip. 75

6. A strip as claimed in claim 5 wherein the strip of retro-reflective tape is centrally located on the external face of one of the arms of the trim strip. 80

7. A strip as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6 wherein the strip of retro-reflective tape is located in a recess having a depth corresponding to the thickness of the tape and a width corresponding to the width of the tape. 85

8. A strip as claimed in any one of claims 4—7 wherein the strip of retro-reflective tape is secured to the edge trim strip by means of a heat sensitive adhesive. 90

9. A strip as claimed in any one of claims 4—7 wherein the strip of retro-reflective tape is secured to the edge trim strip by means of a pressure sensitive adhesive.

10. A strip as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the retro-reflective portion of the trim strip is of a fluorescent red, orange, lime, yellow or white colour. 95

11. A trim strip as claimed in any one of the preceding claims and in which the strip of retro-reflective tape is applied over the whole of the external surface of the trim strip. 100

12. A trim strip according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the retro-reflective properties of the tape are provided by a retro-reflective paint applied to the strip. 105

13. An edge trim strip substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 1 or Figure 2 of the accompanying drawings. 110

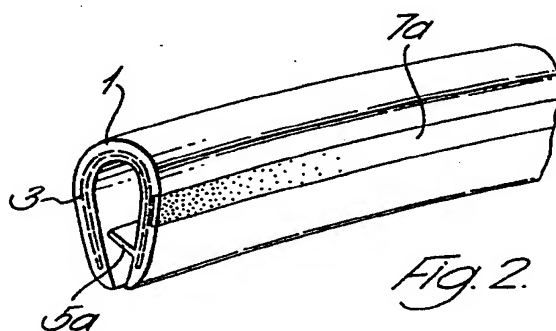
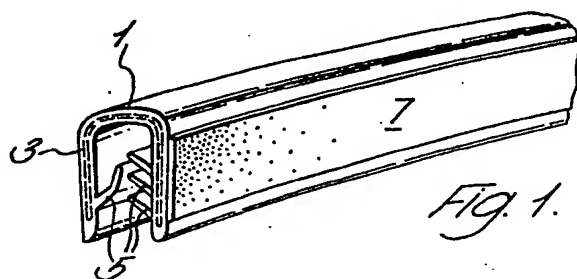
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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

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